Kisan Seva Kendras at IOC outlets

†3000. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is considering to set retain outlets namely 'Kisan Seva Kendras' in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such retail outlets proposed to be set-up during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Oil Coporation Limited (IOC) have initiated steps to set up low-cost retain outlets in rural areas under the name 'Kisan Seva Kendra'. They plan to develop around 1,010 such outlets throughout the country during the current year 2005-06. However, the settting up of these outlets, as also State-wise allocation, will depend on various factors like availability of land, viability of locations, obtaining statutory approvals, etc. Besides supplying diesel and other petroleum products, these outlets are proposed to provide for non-oil facilities like the sale of fertilizer, seeds, pesticide, items of daily need like flour, soap, etc., and facilities like banking, internet kiosk, communications facilities, etc.

Sale of adulterated petrol in Delhi

3001. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETORLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that adulteration of petrol and diesel is taking place on a massive scale in the capital;

(b) whether this is done in connivance with the officials of IOC and HPCL; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any stringent action against the petrol pumps and if so, the penalty imposed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adultrants available in the market and the easy miscibility fo these products with petrol/diesel.

(b) There is reportedly no established case of involvement of officers of IOC and HPCL in adulteration cases in Delhi during the current year

(c) The State Governments/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companeis (OMCs) take action against the established cases of adulteration by the petrol pumps as per the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955/ Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The penalties under MDG include termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

Operation of Oil Companies

3002. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many oil companies have shown keen interest in downstream oil refining, petrochemical, LNG and collaboration as well as acquiring stake in companies abroad including Government organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to allow them to do so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the oil sector generally function in their core areas of business. Some of the PSUs in the oil sector both upstream and downstream, have taken steps to integrate themselves along the hydrocarbon value chain. Oil PSUs engaged in exploration and production have taken up, or are planning to take up, downstream activities. Similarly, some of the downstream PSUs have taken up upstream activities and have been participating in E&P activities. ONGC are also considering investments